

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

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S E C R E T AMMAN 0292

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MASS, JO, BA, US
SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AND BAHRAIN

REF: (A) AMMAN 0046, (B) MANAMA 0018

1. WE HAD A FEW MINUTES TO DISCUSS WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN HIS JANUARY 5 TRIP TO BAHRAIN.
2. HASSAN SAID HE COMES BACK WITH THE FIRM CONCLUSION THAT THE AL KHALIFA FAMILY IS DIVIDED (HE WAS NOT SPECIFIC ABOUT EXACT DIVISIONS), BUT NOTED THAT MOST MEMBERS SEEM UNABLE TO COOPERATE. IF IT IS OF VALUE, WE CAN PURSUE FURTHER THE INFORMATION ON VARIOUS FACTIONS WITHIN THE FAMILY.
3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HASSAN SAYS, HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE FAMILY LIVES IN A WORLD VERY MUCH OBLIVIOUS TO AND OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE THREAT TO THE REGIME. HE SEES THIS IN THE MAIN AS COMING FROM IRAQ, THE OTHER RADICALS AND THE COMMUNISTS. HE BELIEVES FROM HIS TALKS THAT THE PRINCIPAL FAMILY MEMBERS ARE JUST NOT IN TOUCH WITH THE REAL WORLD. COMMENT: HASSAN

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IS HIMSELF A CONSERVATIVE, BUT NOT A KNEE-JERK ONE, AND HE IS SOPHISTICATED AND INNOVATIVE IN HIS JUDGMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT MORE INCLINED TO LOOK FOR THE DANGERS TO THE ARAB MONARCHIES THAN FOR THE BRIGHT SPOTS. END COMMENT.

4. HASSAN WAS PARTICULARLY DISPARAGING ABOUT IAN

HENDERSON'S ROLE IN SECURITY AFFAIRS. HE SAID
HENDERSON HAS HIS OWN EMPIRE GOING, KNOWS IT, AND MAY
BE SOMEWHAT OVER THE HILL IN TERMS OF DEALING WITH
THE SECURITY PROBLEMS OF THE LATE 1970'S. HASSAN IS
NOW CONVINCED THAT THE JORDANIANS ON CONTRACT HAVE
BEEN GETTING MORE THAN THEIR SHARE OF DIRTY JOBS TO
DO IN INTELLIGENCE. HE IMPLIED THAT SOME OF THESE
JORDANIANS ALSO MIGHT NOT HAVE HANDLED THEMSELVES
WITH THE FULL CIRCUMSPECTION AND CARE REQUIRED IN
THAT SORT OF WORK.

5. ON THE US NAVAL USE OF BAHRAIN ISSUE, HASSAN SAID THE BAHRAINIS
ARE AWAITING WITH INTEREST THE REPORT DUE THEM IN FEBRUARY.
ASIDE FROM A BELIEF THAT THEY FACE NO IMPORTANT THREAT TO
THEM, AT LEAST FROM INTERNAL SUBVRSION, HE SAID
HE DETECTED NO OTHER STRONG PRECONCEPTIONS IN THEIR APPROACH
TO THE US ON THIS MATTER. AS FAR AS SHEIKH HAMAD'S INTERST
IN AN AIR BASE IS CONCERNED, HASSAN SENT TO HIM A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA RETIRED
SERVICEMEN'S CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (RETSER) WHICH
HASSAN FELT WAS SYMPATHETIC TO BAHRAIN AND COULD DO
CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THEM AT A FAIR PRICE. (REPRESENTA-
TIVE IS POSSIBLY MR H C YEN WHO RECENTLY VISITED
JORDAN WHERE RETSER IS BUILDING THE DEAD SEA-AQABA
ROAD. YEN TOLD US RETSER HAS OVER \$300 MILLION IN
CONSTRUCTION WORK IN SAUDI ARABIA AT THE PRESENT TIME.)
PICKERING

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